



# **Brevard Deserves Better: PUBLIC COMMENT PREP PACKET**

## **Brevard County School Board Meeting - November 18, 2025**

*Using Agenda Item I.2 to Oppose Cape View Closure and Protect All Schools*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This prep packet prepares you to deliver a strategic, precise public comment against the closure of Cape View Elementary. The school's closure appears inside a broad agenda category:

#### **Agenda Item I.2: Attendance Boundary Change Proposals, SY 2026-2027**

Source: Agenda Page 9

Cape View is not named explicitly anywhere in the agenda. Instead, it is embedded in "boundary proposals," limiting transparency and public understanding. This packet ensures you speak powerfully, clearly, and directly to the board about both the Cape View decision and the structural failures that threaten every school across the district.

You will also address the board's proposed meeting-time change, which raises significant concerns about public access and community participation.

## **1. WHERE CAPE VIEW APPEARS IN THE AGENDA**

### **Cape View is housed under Section I.2: Attendance Boundary Change Proposals, SY 2026-2027**

This is the portion of the agenda where the closure decision exists, even though:

- Cape View is not named explicitly
- The closure is not labeled as a closure

- The item appears under “Information” rather than a transparent “Action” or “Discussion” section

**Why this matters:**

- School closures are major decisions.
- Boundary adjustments and closures are not equivalent.
- This hides the true impact of the proposal.
- It reduces the public’s ability to understand and respond.
- Families deserve direct, visible notice when their school is at risk.

## **2. WHY THIS PLACEMENT IS A TRANSPARENCY FAILURE**

**Placing a closure inside a boundary proposal:**

- Minimizes public awareness
- Removes urgency from the agenda
- Obscures the true nature of the decision
- Creates confusion during public comment
- Prevents families from preparing or organizing
- Damages public trust in the board’s decision-making

**Strategic leverage for your comment:**

You are not arguing emotions. You are arguing process, transparency, and responsible governance.

## **3. BOARD MEETING TIME CHANGES: ACCESSIBILITY PROBLEM**

**The meeting-time proposal appears under:**

**Section A.VII: Designate Dates, Times and Locations of School Board Meetings**

Source: Agenda Page 2



### **What the board proposes:**

- One meeting in the morning
- One meeting in the evening

### **Why this is a problem:**

- Working families cannot attend morning meetings
- Hourly workers lose pay if they attend
- Morning meetings reduce speaker turnout
- Public oversight becomes inconsistent
- Other districts have used this exact structure to minimize pressure and reduce community presence

### **What you are saying:**

- You are not opposed to balance.
- You are opposed to inaccessibility.
- Meeting times must center families, not exclude them.
- A district facing school closures must increase transparency, not reduce access.

## **4. STRATEGIC FRAMING FOR YOUR COMMENT**

Use these four key frames throughout your comment:

**FRAME 1:** The Cape View closure is not an isolated event; it reveals deeper systemic failures in planning, enrollment management, communication, and community engagement.

**FRAME 2:** The placement of Cape View inside “boundary changes” is a structural transparency problem.

**FRAME 3:** The proposed meeting-time changes will weaken public participation at the exact moment when families need more access.

**FRAME 4:** You are calling for responsible governance, not attacking the board personally.



# 5. KEY ARGUMENTS TO INCLUDE

## ARGUMENT 1

Cape View's closure is hidden inside a broad administrative category.

- A closure is not a boundary tweak
- This prevents families from understanding what the board is doing
- It violates the spirit of public transparency

## ARGUMENT 2

Closures require explicit, accessible agenda placement.

- Families should not have to search through attachments to find out their school is closing
- Major decisions deserve major visibility

## ARGUMENT 3

Every school is now vulnerable.

- Brevard's enrollment and facility patterns show that Cape View is not unique
- Without a comprehensive plan, more closures will follow

## ARGUMENT 4

Meeting-time changes reduce access for families.

- Morning meetings are inaccessible
- The community must be able to attend and speak
- Transparency requires accessible meeting times

## ARGUMENT 5

The district needs a full, public, multi-year sustainability plan, not one-off closures buried under boundary changes.



## 6. FULL 2–3 MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT EXAMPLE

*“Good evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am speaking on Item I.2, the Attendance Boundary Change Proposals for the 2026–2027 school year, because that is where the closure of Cape View Elementary has been placed in this agenda.*

*A school closure is not a boundary change. It is a life-changing decision for students, families, staff, and an entire community. Placing such a major closure inside a broad administrative category makes it harder for families to understand what is happening and limits their ability to participate meaningfully in the process.*

*Cape View’s closure is not an isolated situation. It is a symptom of a structural issue in our district’s planning and communication. There is no clear, public, multi-year sustainability plan for our schools. Families are not brought into discussions early. And decisions that affect neighborhoods and children are being folded into categories that do not reflect their true impact. If this continues, Cape View will not be the only school put at risk.*

*I would also like to address Item A.VII, the proposal to move to one morning meeting and one evening meeting each month. While balance may sound fair on paper, other Florida districts have used this exact structure to reduce public access. Families in Brevard work during the day. They cannot simply take off work for a morning meeting. If this board wants to improve transparency, it must adopt meeting times that maximize participation, not decrease it.*

*Tonight, I am asking for three commitments from this board.*

***First**, when a school closure is being considered, it must be listed as a standalone item with clear language, not buried in a boundary category.*

***Second**, the district must hold accessible public engagement sessions before any school closure or major boundary overhaul.*

***Third**, the district must release a public-facing, multi-year sustainability plan that includes enrollment projections, facility needs, and community impacts.*

*Cape View deserved clarity. All families in Brevard deserve honesty, stability, and transparent decision-making. This board has the opportunity to rebuild trust by putting families at the center of the conversation. Thank you.”*



## 7. BACKUP TALKING POINTS (IF THE BOARD PUSHES BACK)

You can say any of the following succinctly:

- “I am speaking on Item I.2 because Cape View is included there.”
- “A closure should be labeled as a closure. It is not a typical boundary adjustment.”
- “Families should not have to decode attachments to understand what is happening.”
- “This is about process and transparency, not accusing anyone of bad intent.”
- “Multiple schools face similar enrollment challenges. We need a plan, not one-off closures.”
- “Meeting accessibility is part of transparency.”
- “Morning meetings prevent working families from participating.”
- “The district already knows which schools are at risk. Families deserve that information too.”

## 8. BEFORE-YOU-SPEAK INSTRUCTIONS

### Arrive Early

- Public comment sign-up closes at the start of the meeting.
- Get a speaker card immediately.

### Build Relationships Before the Meeting

- Approach families who seem confused or upset.
- Say: “Many of us are here because of Cape View. We’re organizing people who want transparency and stability. Would you like updates?”
- Provide a sign-up sheet.

### Materials to Bring

- Printed packet
- Sign-up sheets
- Pens
- Quick explainer sheets (if you want me to generate one)



## 9. DURING-THE-MEETING STRATEGY

- Sit where the board can see community turnout
- Give supportive nonverbal cues to other speakers
- Avoid interrupting anyone
- When called, walk calmly to the podium
- Deliver your comment slowly and intentionally
- Present clear demands
- Stay visible after speaking

## 10. AFTER-THE-MEETING STRATEGY

### Immediately After the Meeting

- Gather families who spoke or stayed engaged
- Pass the sign-up sheet again
- Tell them there will be a strategy session
- Offer help preparing future comments
- Reinforce that this is the beginning, not the end

**Your goal:** Collect names, build the list, build the base.

## 11. WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

**Success is not one board member agreeing with you.**

**Success is:**

- Making Cape View visible even though it was hidden
- Highlighting the structural crisis in planning and transparency
- Showing the board that families are organized and paying attention
- Making the meeting-time issue publicly controversial
- Building a network of families motivated to stay involved
- Strengthening SEE Alliance's presence and credibility
- Creating momentum for sustained action

